

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) Propulsion system for ships and other mobile marine structures, comprising:

a driving machine;

~~an~~ a synchronous, permanent magnet electrical generator having an electrical output and a plurality of poles, powered directly by the driving machine;

a synchronous, permanent magnet electrical propulsion motor having a plurality of poles, powered by the output of the electrical generator, with a fixed and direct electrical connection thereto; and

a ~~propeller or similar~~ propulsion device operated by a mechanical connection to the electrical propulsion motor,

the electrical generator and the electrical propulsion motor having operating characteristics which are substantially the same.

7. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to claim 6, having a ratio between the number of poles in the generator and the number of poles in the propulsion motor of 3:1 to 1:20.

8. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to claim 7, wherein the generator has fewer poles than the propulsion motor.

9. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to claim 6, wherein the output of the electrical generator is additionally connected to a branch circuit for feeding a consumption network, a frequency converter being provided between the output and the branch circuit to provide a stable frequency from the generator.

10. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to

claim 6, additionally comprising an auxiliary generator powered by the driving machine for feeding a consumption network, a frequency converter being provided between the auxiliary generator and the consumption network.

11. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to claim 6, wherein the driving machine is a speed-adjustable combustion engine.

12. (previously presented) Propulsion system according to claim 11, wherein the engine is a diesel engine or gas turbine engine.